

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claim 1-2, 4-11, 14-18 and 20 have been amended. Claims 21-23 have been added to this application. Accordingly, Claims 1-23 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection Over Warrender. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,267,938 ("*Warrender*"). This ground for rejection is traversed.

The Examiner indicates that *Warrender* discloses the claimed monoethanolamine. This is incorrect. *Warrender* discloses the reaction product of an aldehyde and an amine, such as monoethanolamine. In *Warrender*, the hydrogen sulfide scavenger is not monoethanolamine but instead is a water soluble reaction product of an aldehyde and amine. (Col. 3, ll. 40-43). All instances to monoethanolamine in *Warrender* relate to the reaction product. Thus, the claimed monoethanolamine hydrogen scavenger of Applicants is not disclosed in *Warrender*.

Examiner's Rejection Over Oakes. The Examiner has also rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,452,764 ("*Oakes*"). This ground for rejection is likewise traversed. Newly added Claim 21 references the scavenging of mercaptans, independent Claim 22 references the use of the hydrogen sulfite scavenger neat or diluted with an organic solvent and independent Claim 23 is directed to a liquid stream. The newly added claims are outside of the limitations of *Oakes*.

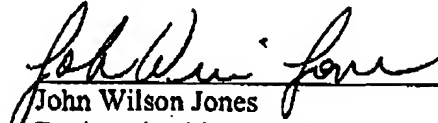
Examiner's Rejection over Pounds. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,462,721 ("*Pounds*"). *Pounds*, like *Warrender*, discloses a reaction product of an alkanolamine and aldehyde. *Pounds* does not disclose the use of the claimed monoethanolamines. The claimed monoethanolamines are not reaction products of monoethanolamines and aldehydes.

Examiner's Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1-20 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The amendments to the claims obviates the need for further discussion of this rejection.

Conclusion. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. It is believed that the claims to the amendments and the remarks expressed herein put this application in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

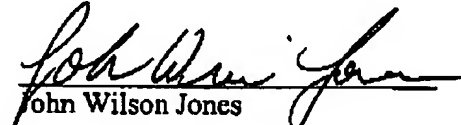
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, 571-273-8300 on this 13th day of October, 2005.


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